February 5, 2020 Issue
IN CHURCH ON SUNDAY
8:15 and 10:45 a.m. Worship Service
9:30 a.m. Sunday School

February 9th
Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany
Scouting Sunday

The Sermon: “God’s Promise of Reward”
Yiwen Bi
Scripture: Matthew 5:12-20
Anthem:
8:15 Thy Word
Paula McNally, soprano
10:45 Let Your Light Shine!
Sanctuary Choir; Olivia Donnel, director
Hymns:
166 All Praise to thee, for Thou, O King Devine
585 This Little Light of Mine
596 Blessed Jesus, at Thy Word
206 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

February 16th
Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany

The Sermon: “God’s Promise of Freedom”
Rev. Howard White
Scripture: Deuteronomy 30:15-20
Psalms 119:1-8
Anthem:
8:15 I Walked Today Where Jesus Walked
Jan Waggoner, soprano
10:45 Come and Sing to the Lord
Sanctuary Choir, Joe Walczyk, director
Hymns:
547 O Church of God, United
389 Freely, Freely
420 Breathe on Me, Breath of God
695 O Lord, May Church and Home Combine

FIRST Thoughts

Rev. Christine Chokoain says part of the problem of embracing Jesus’ challenging words in the Sermon on the Mount is that many contemporary Christians try to have it both ways. We think we can live by the values of the culture around us and live by Jesus’ values. We think they are close enough to each other that there is really no conflict. She suggests a different idea, that the culture and Jesus may well represent different paths, like in Robert Frost’s famous poem, and therefore lead to different ends. “Instead of trying to synchronize them, the better option may well be seeing where the paths end up.”

In “The Road Not Taken,” Frost writes of the choice that lay before him, and indeed before us all:

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveler, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth...

On Sunday we will return to the sermon on the Mount and see how Jesus’ promises challenge our assumptions about the road we should be choosing. The culture around us has one road it tells us to follow. And many of us would say the initial way may look very appealing. Who would not want to have a healthy family or provide for their household? Jesus is trying to warn us that “somewhere down the way, the culture’s promises turn out to be erratic, and there are traps and dead ends that we did not expect. We hurl ourselves at work, yet we find ourselves spending more and more time there at the expense of our relationships, with no guarantee of success. We pursue every medical test available, yet sooner or later our bodies fail us. We chase after power, but then find out that we always have to defend it. We aspire to popularity, but then can never say anything controversial, lest someone dislike us.”

Jesus offers a path that may not look as appealing at first. “But the farther down the road of faith one travels, the more truth one finds. We discover that humility, unlike power, needs no defense. We realize righteousness — doing the right thing — is its own reward. We find that a pure heart is much easier to live with than one filled with jealousy, resentment, or cynicism. Step by step, we learn that following Jesus — even if we are persecuted for it — leads to a joy that nothing can take away. As Frost’s poem concludes:

I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.

(Quotes are from Chokoain, Christine, "Homiletical Perspective, Matthew 5:1-12" in "Feasting on the Gospels: Matthew, Volume 1" Jarvis, Cynthia, General Editor)

God Bless, Pastor Howard
**February 6 to February 20**

| **6 Thursday** | 1:00 | Priscilla Circle |
| | 5:45 | Gentle Toning, Stretch and Yoga |
| | 6:00 | Financial Peace University, Heritage Room |
| | 6:00 | Education Committee |
| | 7:00 | Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary |
| **7 Friday** | 9:30 | Golden Yoga, Room 404 * |
| **8 Saturday** | 8:00 | Neighborhood Action Group, F.H. & Kitchen |
| **9 Sunday - Fifth Sunday after Epiphany** | 8:15 | Worship Service |
| | 9:30 | Sunday School |
| | 10:45 | Worship Service |
| | 12:00 | Confirmation Class, Rm. 409 |
| | 2:00 | Youth Ski Trip, departs FUMC |
| | 3:00 | Scouts Boy Troop 66, Fellowship Hall |
| | 4:45 | Handbells |
| | 5:00 | Chimes |
| | 6:00 | Financial Peace University, Heritage Room |
| | 6:00 | Young Adults Group, Room 308 |
| **11 Tuesday** | 8:30 | Men’s Group, Heritage Room |
| | 9:00 | Golden Yoga, Room 404 * |
| **12 Wednesday** | 9:00-3 | Healing Touch (by Appointment), Room 403 |
| | 4:45 | Handbells |
| | 6:00 | Greatful Hearts, Room 308 |
| | 6:70 | Youth Group, Valentine’s Activity |
| **13 Thursday** | 5:00 | Young Adults Group, Youth Room |
| | 5:45 | Gentle Toning, Stretch and Yoga |
| | 6:00 | Financial Peace University, Heritage Room |
| | 7:00 | Choir Rehearsal |
| **14 Friday** | 9:30 | Golden Yoga, Room 404 * |
| **15 Saturday** | 8:15 | Worship Service |
| **16 Sunday - Sixth Sunday after Epiphany** | 9:30 | Sunday School |
| | 10:45 | Worship Service |
| | 12:00 | Confirmation Class, Rm. 409 |
| | 2:00 | Youth Ski Trip, departs FUMC |
| | 3:00 | Scouts Girl Troop 66, Fellowship Hall |
| **17 Monday** | 5:00 | Chimes |
| | 7:30 | Scouts Boy Troop 66, Fellowship Hall-Not Meeting |
| **18 Tuesday** | 8:30 | Men’s Group, Heritage Room |
| | 9:00 | Golden Yoga, Room 404 * |
| **19 Wednesday** | 9:00-3 | Healing Touch (by Appointment), Room 403 |
| | 4:45 | Handbells |
| | 6:00 | Greatful Hearts, Room 308 |
| | 6:00 | Youth Group |
| **20 Thursday** | 5:45 | Gentle Toning, Stretch and Yoga |
| | 6:00 | Financial Peace University, Heritage Room |
| | 7:00 | Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary |

* A fee is charged.

**In Sympathy:**

- Sympathy to family & friends of Don Michel, who died on January 25, 2020 in Dallas, TX.
- Sympathy to Joyce & Mike Vancil & family on the death of her brother, Robert Hudson of North Carolina, who died on January 20, 2020.

**Calendar Dates for 2020:** PLEASE come in to the Church Office and write in or call in your church-related events held in March 2020 on the Office Calendar as soon as possible.

**Volunteer Opportunity:** A volunteer is needed for Nametags for the month of August. Please contact the Church Office if you are interested.

**Altar Flowers:** The next available dates for Altar Flowers are February 16 and April 26. Altar Flowers cost $49. Flowers should be paid for in the Church Office prior to the designated Sunday.

**Church Linens:** If you have taken the church linens home to launder, please return them.

**Asburian Deadlines:** Just a reminder that Mondays by Noon is the deadline for submitting articles and other revisions to that week’s Asburian. Please send submissions/revisions to barbm@fumc-cdale.org.

**Communion Coordinator, Set Up and Clean Up Volunteer Opportunity**—Ash Wednesday, February 26th and Sunday, March 1, 2020. A few good ladies and/or gentlemen to volunteer would be so appreciated. Please notify Barb at the Church Office with the date and position you are volunteering to serve.

**Thank You:** I want to express my sincere gratitude to all of you for your prayers and thoughtfulness during my recent illness and surgery. I am truly grateful for my church family.

*Sincerely, Barbara Swinburne*

**Church Office Hours:** Beginning Monday, February 10, 2020, the Church Office will be open Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to Noon and 1 to 5 p.m. The Church Office will be closed on Fridays.
New Year, Same Promises

Our current worship series, New Year, Same Promises runs through the rest of Epiphany. Lent starts on Ash Wednesday (Feb. 26th) when we will partner with the Wesley Foundation Campus Ministry to offer a shared service at FUMC. Our Lenten Sermon Series is called "Boot Camp for the Soul." Reflection and change take work, hard work. Lent can be like a boot camp for the soul, a restart in a focused area. We walk this season together, demanding the best of ourselves, ready to support one another, and prepared to see truths that shatter our self-understanding. After that, our Easter series is "Closer and Closer" - the resurrection of Disciples for Sunday, February 9, 2020—Scouting Sunday

Altar Flowers are given by Kathy Hollister in memory of her sister Janese and nephew Christopher.

Disciples for Sunday, February 9, 2020

Acolytes: 10:45: Paige Hefferman, Olivia Bishop
Indoor Greeters: Ed & Sue Tresnak
Liturgists: 8:15: John Brocato, 10:45: Guy Indorante
Sound System Operators: 8:15: Scott Wright, 10:45: Dow White
February Ushers: 8:15: Sue & Duane Stucky, 10:45: Ron Browning, Joe Lenzini, Krishna Balasubramanian, Lori Palmer, Will Stephens

Coffee Hosts: 8:15: Kathy Hollister, 10:45: Lane & Joe Hudgins
Outside Greeters: Kathy Hollister
Van Driver: Brian Gorecki
Welcome Center: 8:15: Deanna Diel, 10:45: Mary Lou Goodman
February Nametags: Linda Meredith
Parish Nurses: 9:15: Betty Craig
Children’s Church: Tabitha Koch
Children’s Church Regis.: Sharon Sims
Youth Helpers: Michael & Abby Koch

Altar Flowers are given in honor of our Congregation and Choir.

Disciples for Sunday, February 16, 2020

Acolytes: 10:45: Logan & Lexi Frick
Indoor Greeters: Matt & Laura Bishop & Family
Liturgists: 8:15: Scott Wright, 10:45: Bruce Wallace
Sound System Operators: 8:15: Joyce Crippen, 10:45: Mike Hanes
February Ushers: 8:15: Sue & Duane Stucky, 10:45: Ron Browning, Joe Lenzini, Krishna Balasubramanian, Lori Palmer, Will Stephens

Coffee Hosts: 8:15: Lyn Christy & Jeff Anderer, 10:45: Linda & Rob Lucas
Outside Greeters: The Hinde Family
Van Driver: Dan Anderson, III
Welcome Center: 8:15: Judy Dilling, 10:45: Betty Bishop
February Nametags: Linda Meredith
Children’s Church: Jennifer Woolridge
Children’s Church Regis.: JoVonna Noble
Youth Helpers: Reese Funk, Julie Oberg

Boy Scout Sunday marks the founding of the Scouts in the United States. February 8, 1910 was the founding of the Boy Scouts of America by W.D. Boyce. The first Scout Sunday was in 1914. The Scout Law says that a “Scout is Reverent” and Scouts of all ages promise to do their “Duty to God.” These values strengthen youth character in their family, community, and faith. FUMC recognizes the value of scouting today, and throughout the year.
SUNDAY CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Children’s Opportunities, Sundays

Sundays at 9:30 a.m. Children’s Sunday School (K-5th grade) uses the *Deep Blue* from Cokesbury. Main Topic: “Leaders of the Community” - Feb. 9 Sunday School—“David” - Feb. 16 Sunday School—“The Servant Girl”

Sundays at 10:45 a.m. Children’s Church (K-5th grade). All children are invited to Children’s Church following the Children’s Time at the 10:45 a.m. worship service.

Youth Opportunities, Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

9:30 a.m. Junior/Senior High Class meets in the Youth Room and uses a variety of materials connecting the lessons of the Bible with issues relevant to today’s youth.

Adult Opportunities, Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

Renew Class - Renew is a multi-generational Women's Study Group that focuses both on the Bible and devotional books enhancing scriptural study. All women are welcome!! We meet in the Chapel, Room 404. On January 12th, we will begin a six-session study using Adam Hamilton’s book: *The Walk: Five Essential Practices of the Christian Life.* This is a 6-week study focusing on “five essential spiritual practices that are rooted in Jesus’ own walk with God and taught throughout the New Testament. Each of these practices is a part of our daily walk with Christ and an essential part of growing together in the church.”

The Electives Class - Scripture studies following the lectionary led by Rev. John Sims. They meet in the Heritage Room. All are welcome!

Small Group Opportunities

FUMCNext-Carbondale meets in the Heritage Room. Help us explore ways we can share the love of Christ with all people? Come share your ideas. Looking forward to seeing you!

Gentle Toning, Stretch, and Yoga Techniques meets on Thursdays at 5:45 p.m., Rm 404, the Chapel.

Golden Yoga meets on Tuesdays at 10:15 a.m. and on Fridays at 9:30 a.m., Rm 404, the Chapel. A fee is charged for this class.

Grateful Hearts is a group of women who meet to strengthen their faith through Bible study, fellowship, and prayer. The group is studying *How Happiness Happens* by Max Lucado on Wednesdays, at 6 p.m. in room 308. All women are welcome.

Men’s Group All men of the church are invited to coffee and refreshments on Tuesday mornings at 8:30 a.m. in the Heritage Room. We discuss anything and everything from the perspective of our relationship with God.

Saturday Night Live is a group of “mature” or “maturing” adults who meet monthly for dinner and fellowship. The group usually meets the first Saturday of the month at 5:30 p.m. Watch the Asburian calendar for dates and location information. Everyone is welcome.

Youth Group meets on Wednesdays at 6 p.m. in the Youth Room. Time and location to be determined. each week.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb. 6 Priscilla Circle, 1 p.m.

Sock Sunday!!

Bethel AME Church in Carbondale is asking for help in providing socks for those in need. The Missions Committee is collecting NEW men's socks, such as crew socks, to furnish to Bethel AME Church. We will have “Sock Sunday” on February 16, 2020, and have a goal to fill the Mission Committee wagon that will be in the Narthex. Think of it as a challenge to fill the wagon with new men’s socks to benefit those who are served by the Bethel AME Feed My Sheep program and are in need of socks.

Thank you, Missions Committee

Paul and Evangeline Chugh Outstanding High School Graduate Award

To recognize outstanding high school performance of youth associated with Carbondale 1st United Methodist Church who intend to pursue further education by providing financial assistance in the amount of a $1000 scholarship

2020 high school graduates may contact church office for the application form or any questions/answers 618-457-2466. fumc@fumc-cable.org All materials submission due 3/1/20

SYNOD NEWS

FEMALE MISSIONS FIELD TRIP

To the Garden of the Gods, 2/16 and 2/17, Meeting at the church at 7:30 to head out. Register by 2/10, vivrhea@vialoa.com. 979-432-9100. Includes meals, transportation, lodging, and admission cost.